

1 WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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3 1. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed
4 to:

5 determine from a set of delivery times for each of a plurality of services for each of a
6 plurality of carriers a potential delivery schedule for each of the plurality of services for each
7 of the plurality of carriers in response to a request by each of a plurality of users to ship a
8 particular parcel, wherein each user accesses the shipping management computer system over
9 a global communications network using a client computer device, and wherein each user
10 client computer device has an individual electronic connection to the global communications
11 network.

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13 2. The shipping management computer system of Claim 1, said computer system
14 further programmed to:

15 calculate for each of the plurality of users upon each request by each user a shipping
16 rate for each of the plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers for
17 delivering the particular parcel according to the determined potential delivery schedule for
18 the particular service for the particular carrier.

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20 3. The shipping management computer system of Claim 2, said computer system
21 further programmed to:

22 generate, in response to a user request for a shipping rate and delivery time
23 comparision, a display of an online interactive prompt to a display monitor configured with a
24 user client computer device of the particular user, said online interactive prompt comprising a
25 comparison of shipping rates for a plurality of services offered by a plurality of carriers for
26 delivering the particular parcel according to the determined potential delivery schedule for
27 the particular service for the particular carrier.

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29 4. A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of

1 parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:
2 determining from a set of delivery times for each of a plurality of services for each of
3 a plurality of carriers a potential delivery schedule for each of the plurality of services for
4 each of the plurality of carriers in response to a request by each of a plurality of users to ship
5 a particular parcel, wherein each user accesses the shipping management computer system
6 over a global communications network using a client computer device, and wherein each user
7 client computer device has an individual electronic connection to the global communications
8 network.

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10 5. The method of Claim 4, said method further comprising:

11 calculating for each of the plurality of users upon each request by each user a
12 shipping rate for each of the plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers for
13 delivering the particular parcel according to the determined potential delivery schedule for
14 the particular service for the particular carrier.

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16 6. The method of Claim 5, said method further comprising:

17 generating, in response to a user request for a shipping rate and delivery time
18 comparision, a display of an online interactive prompt to a display monitor configured with a
19 user client computer device of the particular user, said online interactive prompt comprising a
20 comparison of shipping rates for a plurality of services offered by a plurality of carriers for
21 delivering the particular parcel according to the determined potential delivery schedule for
22 the particular service for the particular carrier.

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24 7. A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for
25 execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by
26 any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:

27 a set of program instructions for determining from a set of delivery times for each of a
28 plurality of services for each of a plurality of carriers a potential delivery schedule for each of
29 the plurality of services for each of the plurality of carriers in response to a request by each of

1 a plurality of users to ship a particular parcel, wherein each user accesses the shipping
2 management computer system over a global communications network using a client
3 computer device, and wherein each user client computer device has an individual electronic
4 connection to the global communications network.

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6 8. The computer program product of Claim 7, said computer program product
7 further comprising:

8 a set of program instructions for calculating for each of the plurality of users upon
9 each request by each user a shipping rate for each of the plurality of services offered by each
10 of a plurality of carriers for delivering the particular parcel according to the determined
11 potential delivery schedule for the particular service for the particular carrier.

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13 9. The computer program product of Claim 8, said computer program product
14 further comprising:

15 a set of program instructions for generating, in response to a user request for a
16 shipping rate and delivery time comparison, a display of an online interactive prompt to a
17 display monitor configured with a user client computer device of the particular user, said
18 online interactive prompt comprising a comparison of shipping rates for a plurality of
19 services offered by a plurality of carriers for delivering the particular parcel according to the
20 determined potential delivery schedule for the particular service for the particular carrier.

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